



Department
of Energy &
Climate Change

Department of Energy & Climate Change

3 Whitehall Place,
London SW1A 2AW
T: +44 (0)300 068
E: @decc.gsi.gov.uk
www.decc.gov.uk

Our ref: 13/0446

25/04/2013

Dear

RE: Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your email received on 4 April 2013 in which you requested the following information:

1. The total estimated cost of responding to Freedom of Information requests in each financial year since the act's introduction.
2. The total number of requests received in each financial year since the act's introduction - including where possible the total requests answered in full, the total answered partially and the total refused .
3. The current number of FTE posts for which the primary function is to oversee, respond to or co-ordinate obligations under the Freedom of Information Act.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act'), you have the right to:

- know whether we hold the information you require
- be provided with that information (subject to any exemptions under the Act which may apply).

In response to your three separate questions above:

1. The Department of Energy & Climate Change does not hold information on the total estimated cost of responding to Freedom of Information requests in each financial year since the Act's introduction.
2. The Department of Energy & Climate Change does hold information relevant to this question. However, under section 21 of the FOI Act, we are not required to provide information in response to a request if it is already reasonably accessible to you. You can find the information you have requested up until 31st December 2012 on the Ministry of Justice's (MOJ) website at:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-justice/series/government-foi-statistics>.

The statistics from 1st January 2013 will be published in the future at the same address given above. This information is therefore exempt under section 22 (the information is intended for future publication). Section 22 is a qualified exemption and we have therefore considered the public interest test. There is a public interest in knowing the details of FOI requests as this leads to greater transparency in government. However, given the necessary preparation and administration involved in publishing the

information, we consider that, the best use of public resources would be directed to pulling this information together, ensuring the information is accurate and published in a consistent and comprehensive format, rather than in a piecemeal fashion. Having considered the public interest, the department's decision is to withhold the requested information.

3. The Department of Energy & Climate Change does not have any posts for which the primary function is to oversee, respond to or co-ordinate obligations under the Freedom of Information Act as these functions are undertaken in relation to requests received under both Freedom of Information Act and Environmental Information Regulations, by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on its behalf. The notional FTE at the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills responsible for carrying out these functions on behalf of the Department of Energy & Climate Change is 3.3 persons.

Appeals procedure

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to me at the address above.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely,

DECC Knowledge & Information Management team